

Independent Cattlemen of NEBRASKA

ICON

P.O. Box 241

Hyannis, NE 69350

Phone 308•282•2826

Independent Cattlemen of Nebraska's (ICON) members and board of directors are actively involved in the cattle business. As cattle producers, and tax paying citizens of the United States of America, ICON would like the Farm Bill to help maintain and insure the economic viability of all cattle producers in the state of Nebraska and the United States.

ICON would like to have Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (MCOOL) implemented for all cattle and beef products that enter into this country. ICON believes that the citizens of the United States of America should have the right to know where their food is born, raised and processed. We believe that MCOOL will provide economic stability for the nation's cattle producers and help secure the nation's independence from foreign food.

ICON recognizes the need for the cattle industry to have a complete market place. ICON would like a ban on the time in which the packers are able to own cattle. ICON believes that a period of ~~one~~ ^{one} ~~two~~ weeks prior to the slaughter of cattle is enough time for the packing industry to secure enough supply to maintain a strong industry. Any supply of cattle held for longer than ~~two~~ ^{one} weeks creates the ability to manipulate the cattle market.

ICON is aware that the Supreme Court has deemed the beef checkoff as government speech. ICON feels that the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985 should be revisited. Changes to the Act should include allowing all parties interested in bidding for contracts to have this opportunity, currently only non-profit organizations representing cattle producers, which were established before 1985 have the right to bid for contracts. These non-profit organizations are then allowed to subcontract out the services which they do not provide while receiving implementation funds to carry out the contract. The Act does not allow for the differentiation of foreign beef from domestic, which forces domestic cattle producers to help promote foreign products. Maybe the best thing to do would be to make the beef checkoff voluntary, then producers can decide if they want to support the program.

ICON is calling for more funding to be spent on the enforcement of the 1921 Packers and Stockyards Act. In light of the Pickett vs. Tyson trial it has become apparent that the GIPSA does not have the manpower or the funds to carry out the intent of this Act.

ICON is calling for the reinstatement of the Competition Title which was left out of the last U.S. Farm Bill.

Respectively,

David Wright
Independent Cattlemen of Nebraska
Box 241
Hyannis, NE 69350
(308) 282-2826

Board Of Directors

Chris Abbott	Dave Wright	Al Davis	Bob Rothwell	Korley Sears	Steve Cady	Jim Hanna
Gordon, NE	Neligh, NE	Hyannis, NE	Hyannis, NE	Ainsworth, NE	Hickman, NE	Brownlee, NE